

### In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena comprising applying an anesthetic topically to the skin of a patient suffering from neuropathic negative sensory phenomena at or near the locus of ~~he~~ the negative sensory phenomena.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said anesthetic is a benzoic acid derivative.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said benzoic acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of benzocaine, procaine, tetracaine, chlorprocaine, propoxycaine, cocaine, proparacaine, mepivacaine, bupivacaine, phenocaine, dibucaine, etidocaine, lidocaine, prilocaine, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the benzoic acid derivative is lidocaine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the lidocaine is contained in a patch.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said patch contains between about 2% and about 10% lidocaine.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said patch contains about 5% lidocaine.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein method further comprises applying a cover over said anesthetic, said cover formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyethylene, synthetic rubber, woven polyester fabric, and non-woven polyester fabric.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for treating neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena by topical administration of an anesthetic, said method comprising:

applying a non-woven polyester cloth including a physiologically acceptable adhesive, comprising from about 2 to 10% by weight of lidocaine, to the skin of a patient at or near the locus of the negative sensory phenomena.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said lidocaine is present in about 5% by weight.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for decreasing numbness of the skin of a patient comprising topically applying a local anesthetic to said skin at or near a site of said numbness.